

Archimedian Screw Turbines - A Macro Perspective



Water Has Endless Power Generation Potential
Why Restrict it with the Limitations of Non-Viable Technology?



There are many turbines including Kaplan, Pelton, Water Wheel, and Francis turbine available to generate electricity from water. Whereas for low head the most efficient proven technology available today in the world is **Archimedeian Screw Turbine**.

This turbine is in a position to generate electricity from 0.8m to 10m head by taking the capacity ranging 0.1 m³/sec to 10 m³/sec with efficiency up to 85%.

Archimedeian Screw Turbine – Technology:

The Archimedes Screw was an ancient machine for pumping water from a lower level to a higher one. It is traditionally credited to Archimedes who lived between 287 B.C. and 212 B.C. In recent years, the Archimedes Screw has been installed as hydropower machine, instead lowering the water and generating power. The Archimedeian Screw Turbine is a highly reliable technology for obtaining hydropower with a minimum effect on the environment.

How does it work?

This turbine consists of a rotating screw supported within a trough by bearings at each end, with a gearbox and generator situated in the control house. The water is lowered within cells which form between the blades and the trough. The water flows through the screw and initiates its rotation. The rotation is transmitted by the gearbox and forwarded to the generator where it is then converted into electrical power. The system's inlet is equipped with a coarse screen. Thus larger foreign bodies (flotsam) are kept away from the plant. Smaller sediments can pass the screen and screw so that the natural sediment structure is kept.

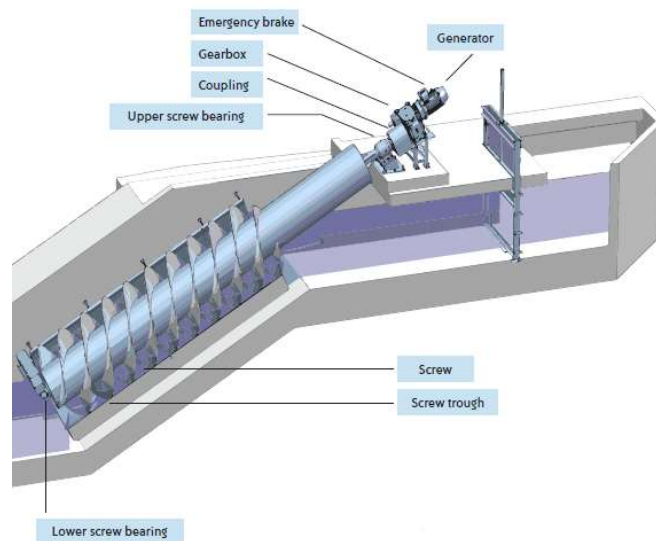


Fig-1 General Operational Layout

Archimedean screws for hydropower are used on low head/high flow sites. They can work efficiently on heads as low as 0.8 meter. Single screws can work on heads up to 10 meters, but for higher discharge more than 10 m³/sec, multiple screws in parallel are generally used.



Fig-2 Two Parallel Screw Turbines (2x250 kW)

- **Low Head technology** – 0.8mtrs to 10mtrs.
- No need of penstock, hence **no impact on surrounding ecology**. Very less civil work.
- **Simple & quick installation** (5-6 months), less maintenance and very less space requirement.
- **Fish friendly. Clean & Green energy**. It's a pressure less system.
- **Debris compatible**, hence fine screens not required
- Low speed (15-40 rpm), hence **no impact of cavitation & erosion**
- **Works for varying flow** conditions, from 20% to 110%. Provides flexibility of power generation regardless of seasonal variation of flow.
- The power generated by Hydro-turbine is **Carbon Neutral**
- **Sustainable** – All parts are designed for long life cycle & can be 100% re-cycled.
- Archimedean screw Turbines adds an ability to reach remote & rural areas. It provides an opportunity of Off-Grid electrification by tapping the endless power of water. This has proven to be very efficient stand-alone technology for remote area resources.
- It's a solution to the Sewage treatment industry which suffers due to lack of power. This technology can be installed at outfalls and serve as cost effective captive use. It provides an option of increasing capacity of Hydro-power plants by installation at tail race.

JASH Engineering Ltd., India now offers the most appropriate technology to generate renewable energy using low heads, with potential applications in water conveyance canals, at outlets of mini hydro power stations and outfalls of sewage treatment plants and thermal power plants, as replacements for water wheels, at small falls at rivulets in hilly regions etc. Archimedean Screw Turbines from JASH offer practical power generation potential at heads as low as 0.8 meters and with flow as little as 0.1 m³/s. JASH offers fully indigenized turbines from 5 kW up to 500 kW capacity manufactured at its modern 150,000 sq. feet facility at Indore, M.P. using proven technology from REHART GmbH, Germany – a European leader in the field.

With the ability to generate power in widely varying flow conditions, from 20% to 110% of the design flow load, these turbines provide flexibility to enable power generation regardless of seasonal variations in flow. Their robust design allows them to tolerate large sized floating wastes without decreasing generation efficiency and without risk of damage or breakdown. This eliminates the need for expensive fine screening equipment at the inlet. Furthermore, their low

rotational speed and dynamic capabilities lead to easy, low cost maintenance, long operative life and significantly lower operational costs as opposed to conventional hydropower generation equipment.

Archimedean screw turbines are ideal for low head applications, as opposed to Kaplan and Francis turbines, due to various advantages that they offer. They circumvent all the issues faced with such conventional turbines as they are suitable for low head sites and as opposed to conventional turbines, they do not require excessive civil construction on account of which a typical project can be commissioned within 6 months.

Designed to be able to allow fish and sediments to pass through (thus allowing the natural sediment structure of the river bed to be maintained) and to improve oxygenation, these turbines provide an edge over the others by allowing flora and fauna to not only survive, but thrive.

With over 50 years of experience, JASH has been serving the water industry with a wide product range that includes water control gates, mechanized screens, water hammer control valves and various other products. With its team of over 700 people spread over 4 plants in India, and with subsidiaries in USA, Austria and Hong Kong,

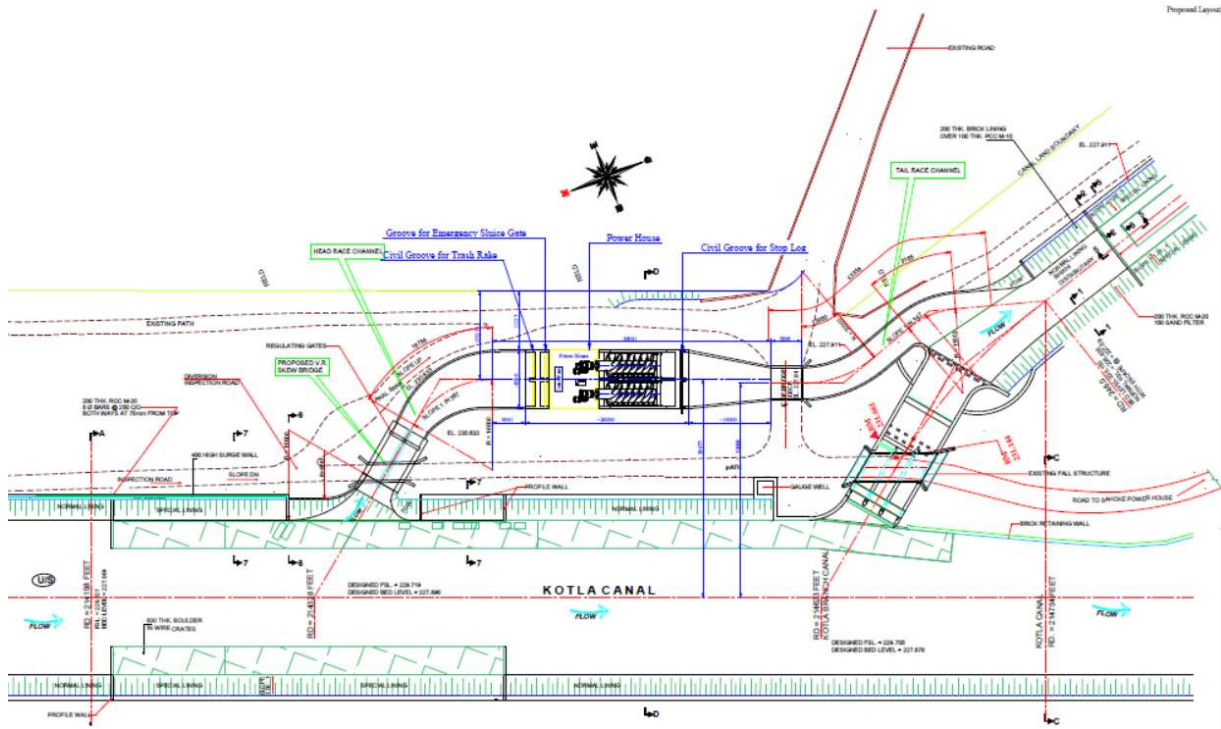


Fig-3 Installed Archimedean Screw Turbine



Fig-4 Satellite View of SSNNL Project

The Bikhi site prospective

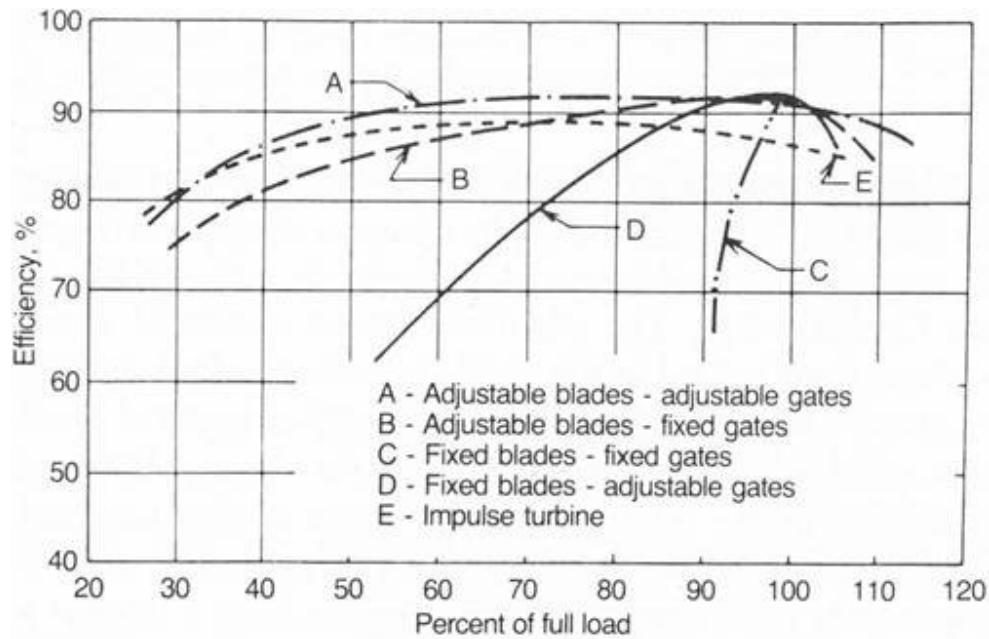


Proposed site is on an irrigation Canal, best suited for Archimedean Screw Turbines.

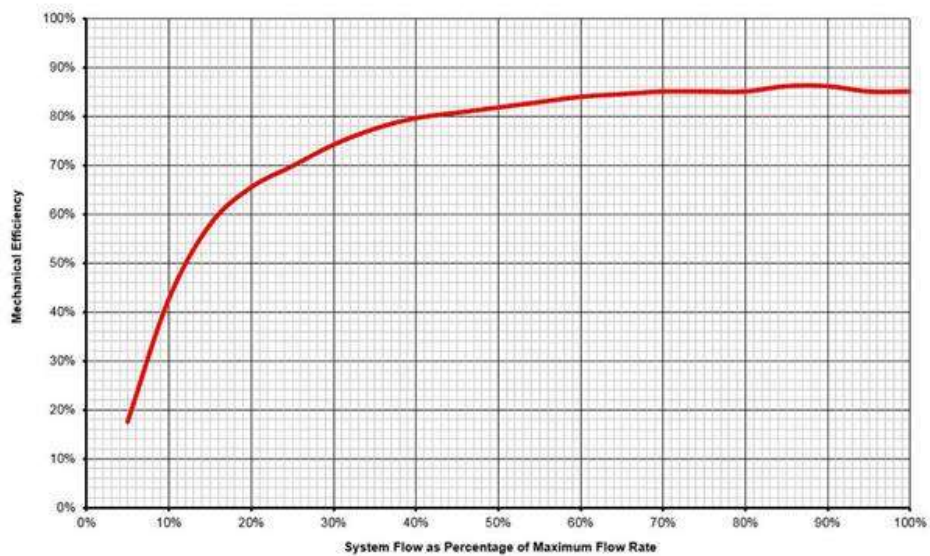
Based on annual flow data, generation capacity was evaluated.

As discussed, there is a serious flaw in the method of calculation given in shared “document” by the client. Please refer graph for efficiency of various types of Kaplan turbines below.

- **Taking uniform efficiency throughout various flows** – In Kaplan Technology, efficiency changes with flow & net head. Fall in efficiency is huge after 50%. Hence, taking a common efficiency will not represent the exact generation trend.
- **Taking average of flow** – Apart from impact on efficiency, it must be observed that all the Kaplan types stops working below 40% to 55% respectively. Running below 40% creates a risk of cavitation and once cavitation happens, efficiency of the equipment falls by 105 or more. In case of cavitation, the cost of maintenance is too high.
- With above, they are able to represent higher units, but on individual flow, the same shall be lower – Kaplan may stop working for flow lesser than 35-40%, the average theory shows generalized outcome value. 3 months per year, the flow is lesser than 40% design value.
- **Design value** – The efficiency is taken at 90% (which might be turbine efficiency & not overall system efficiency). It may be noticed that the turbines shall be designed for 13 Cumecs. At an average, for 6 months a year, the flow is 60% (or lower). Just refer the efficiency graph. There will be fall in actual efficiency.



Hence, our values are prepared in actual efficiencies & flows. It may be seen that our overall efficiency might be lower, but in terms of units generation we are higher. This is because our technology works for even lesser than 20% of designed flow and there is minimal drop in efficiency throughout the flow variation. *Our major efficiency drop starts between 30% to 40%, where most of the technology stops working.



*All the graphs are based on actual studies and are available online. Nothing is created by Jash.

Generation calculated as per actual flow (Screw turbine)

Design Head = 2.8mtrs.					2012			
Max Flow	6.386 cumec	= 2 x 6.386	12.772 cumec		Max. Eff.		75%	
Min Flow	0.881 cumec	= 2 x 0.881	1.762 cumec		Min. Eff.		60%	
Power Generation Year 2012; Bhikhi SHP, Punjab								
Sr. No.	Month	Discharge		Unit-1	Unit-2	Cummulative Power	Units	Earning @SP = Rs5.5/unit
		Cusec	Cumecs	KW	KW	KW		
1	Jan-12	419	11.866	122	122	244	181877	1000323
2	Feb-12	475	13.452	139	139	277	186232	1024274
3	Mar-12	472	13.367	138	138	275	204883	1126855
4	Apr-12	173	4.899	42	42	83	60076	330417
5	May-12	448	12.688	131	131	261	194465	1069558
6	Jun-12	216	6.117	56	56	113	81057	445813
7	Jul-12	465	13.169	136	136	271	201844	1110144
8	Aug-12	282	7.986	73	73	147	109352	601435
9	Sep-12	168	4.758	41	41	81	58340	320867
10	Oct-12	67	1.897	16	16	32	24042	132230
11	Nov-12	264	7.477	69	69	138	99070	544883
12	Dec-12	163	4.616	39	39	79	58490	321695
Total							1459726	8028495

Design Head = 2.8mtrs.				2013				
Max Flow	6.386 cumec	= 2 x 6.386	12.772 cumec		Max. Eff.		75%	
Min Flow	0.881 cumec	= 2 x 0.881	1.762 cumec		Min. Eff.		60%	
Power Generation Year 2013; Bhikhi SHP, Punjab								
Sr. No.	Month	Discharge		Unit-1	Unit-2	Cummulative Power	Units	Earning @SP = Rs5.5/unit
		Cusec	Cumecs	KW	KW	KW		
1	Jan-13	233	6.599	61	61	121	90351	496931
2	Feb-13	240	6.797	63	63	125	84059	462325
3	Mar-13	390	11.045	114	114	228	169289	931088
4	Apr-13	197	5.579	51	51	103	73927	406598
5	May-13	447	12.659	130	130	261	194031	1067170
6	Jun-13	318	9.006	88	88	176	126458	695521
7	Jul-13	375	10.620	104	104	207	154096	847529
8	Aug-13	133	3.767	32	32	64	47725	262487
9	Sep-13	439	12.433	128	128	256	184411	1014262
10	Oct-13	107	3.030	26	26	52	38395	211174
11	Nov-13	401	11.357	117	117	234	168449	926467
12	Dec-13	452	12.801	132	132	264	196201	1079107
Total							1527393	8400660

Design Head = 2.8mtrs.				2014				
Max Flow	6.386 cumec	= 2 x 6.386	12.772 cumec		Max. Eff.		75%	
Min Flow	0.881 cumec	= 2 x 0.881	1.762 cumec		Min. Eff.		60%	
Power Generation Year 2014; Bhikhi SHP, Punjab								
Sr. No.	Month	Discharge		Unit-1	Unit-2	Cummulative Power	Units	Earning @SP = Rs5.5/unit
		Cusec	Cumecs	KW	KW	KW		
1	Jan-14	431	12.206	126	126	251	187086	1028972
2	Feb-14	448	12.688	131	131	261	175646	966052
3	Mar-14	276	7.816	72	72	144	107025	588639
4	Apr-14	261	7.392	68	68	136	97944	538691
5	May-14	444	12.574	130	130	259	192729	1060008
6	Jun-14	385	10.903	112	112	225	161727	889501
7	Jul-14	444	12.574	130	130	259	192729	1060008
8	Aug-14	456	12.914	133	133	266	197938	1088657
9	Sep-14	137	3.880	33	33	66	47574	261660
10	Oct-14	377	10.677	104	104	208	154918	852049
11	Nov-14	312	8.836	86	86	172	124072	682398
12	Dec-14	120	3.398	29	29	58	43060	236831
Total							1682448	9253465

Investment Return Rate

Based on calculations of the annual generation, as per historical data, an Investment return rate was evaluated.

*Considering figures of 2014

No. of units of generation in a year	16.83	Units in lacs
Project Cost	320.00	INR in lacs
Subsidies from MNRE	195.00	INR in lacs
Net investment	320	INR in lacs
Loan Amount (@ 70% of investment)	224	INR in lacs
Equity Amount (@ 30% of investment)	96	INR in lacs
Rate of Interest on loan amount	10%	
Unit Cost (Cost of Generation)	2.45	INR
Per annum increase in unit cost	3%	
Loan Amount Return in years	3	
Equity Amount Payback period in years	5	
Total Income or saving in 35 years	3049.4	INR in lacs

Year →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Total Income	103.6	106.7	109.9	113.2	116.6	120.1	123.7	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	
Loan Repayment	74.7	74.7	74.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Interest Paid	21.2	12.3	4.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	
O&M Costs	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.2	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.8	8.2	8.7	9.2	9.7	10.3	10.9	11.5	12.2	12.9	13.6	14.4	15.2	16.1	17.0	18.0	19.0	20.1	21.2	22.4	23.7	25.1	26.5
Depreciation	8.4	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PBT	70.0	73.3	83.8	90.7	93.9	97.1	100.4	103.8	103.4	103.1	102.7	102.2	101.7	101.5	101.1	100.5	100.0	107.1	115.7	115.0	114.4	113.6	112.9	112.1	111.2	110.3	109.4	108.3	107.3	106.1	104.9	103.7	102.4	100.9	99.5
Taxes	12.9	13.6	15.5	23.8	29.1	31.5	33.7	35.8	36.5	37.0	37.4	37.7	38.0	38.3	38.4	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.4	38.4	38.2	38.1	37.9	37.7	37.5	37.2	36.9	36.6	36.3	35.9	35.5	35.1	34.7	34.2	33.7
Dep. Tax cash Benefit	2.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
ACTUAL INCOME	29.0	24.3	25.5	95.2	93.2	94.4	95.8	97.4	96.7	96.2	95.8	95.5	95.2	94.9	94.8	94.7	94.7	92.1	89.0	89.1	89.2	89.4	89.5	89.7	90.0	90.2	90.5	90.8	91.2	91.5	91.9	92.3	92.8	93.2	93.7
Actual Cumulative Income	29.0	53.2	78.7	173.9	267.2	361.5	457.3	554.7	651.5	747.7	843.4	938.9	1034.1	1129.0	1223.8	1318.5	1413.2	1505.2	1594.2	1683.3	1772.6	1861.9	1951.5	2041.2	2131.2	2221.4	2311.9	2402.8	2493.9	2585.5	2677.4	2769.7	2862.4	2955.6	3049.4

Above calculation is without considering Subsidy (Client shall be eligible for 91 Lakhs to 150 Lakhs subsidy)

- Investment return – 3yrs
- Equity Payback – 5yrs

Don't let your power generation potential go waste. Contact Jash now!

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